

Message Text

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ACTION IGA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9938

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, OTRAN TH, BM

SUBJ: IGA INSPECTION OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 048938 (B) STATE 042364 (C) RANGOON 598

1. FROM REF A WE GATHER THAT VISIT OF IGA INSPECTORS MUSCH AND MATHESON TO RANGOON WILL NEED TO BE LIMITED IN SCOPE. MEANWHILE, COMPLEX, DEVELOPING POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAILAND, INCLUDING NATIONAL ELECTIONS APRIL 4 AND DRAWDOWN OF U.S. FORCES, WILL PREOCCUPY AMBASSADOR, DCM (WHO IS ALSO NARCOTICS COORDINATOR) AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE MISSION DURING PERIOD MAR 20-APR10 WHICH IGS INSPECTORS PROPOSE TO SPEND IN THAILAND. MOREVOER, PART OF THIS PERIOD WILL OVERLAP 1976 EA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR (APRIL 5-8), WHICH KEY MISSION PERSONNEL WILL BE ATTENDING.

2. INTER-AGENCY NARCOTICS EVALUATION TEAM VISITED BANGKOK FEB 23-MAR 6 AND WILL BE PREPARING REPORT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON DIRECTION OF U.S. NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN THAILAND. UNTIL THIS REPORT IS PREPARED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THIS MISSION, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT OT HAVE A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION WITH THE IGA INSPECTORS ON THE SCOPE AND DIRECTION OF OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN THAILAND. WE BELIEVE THE IGA INSPECTORS WOULD WANT TO REVIEW THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTER-AGENCY

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NARCOTICS EVALUATION TEMA BEFORE VISITING BANGKOK.

3. RECOMMENDATION: THAT IGA INSPECTORS RESCHEDULE THEIR VISIT
TO THAILAND FOR MID-APRIL FOLLOWING THE 1976 EA NARCOTICS CON-
FERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR.
WHITEHOUSE

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